

Scott Walker, Governor

John A. Scocos, Secretary



**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

201 W. Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 7843
Madison, WI 53707-7843

Phone: (608) 266-1311
Toll-free: 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387)
Fax: (608) 267-0403
Email: WisVets@dva.wisconsin.gov
Website: www.WisVets.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

Contact: Carla Vigue, 608-266-0517

carla.vigue@dva.wisconsin.gov

John A. Scocos Column: Remember Our Veterans on July 4th

Each 4th of July, we celebrate the birth of our great country. There are picnics, fireworks and parades to enjoy. It's a time for friends, families and communities to come together and be thankful for our freedoms.

It is also a time when we should stop and be thankful for those men and women who are currently serving in our nation's military and for our veterans, who have been responsible for protecting and preserving our democracy.

At the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), under Governor Scott Walker's leadership and with the tools he has provided us, one way we give thanks to our state's veterans is to ensure that they have easy access to the benefits – health care, education, home loans - that they have earned through their military service. We do this not just on July 4th, but on every day of the year.

The WDVA operates one of the busiest claims offices in the country. We work to help veterans establish eligibility for their benefits and then claim those benefits. In fact, last month, the WDVA claims office processed more claims - over 16,000 - than any other state claims office. Since October 1, 2014, our claims office has connected veterans with \$272,501,757 in benefits...again, more than any other state claims office.

We are proud of this success, but we can always strive to do more. Working with the veterans service organizations we continue to work improve claims outcomes for our state's veterans.

The men and women of Wisconsin have a proud history of serving our country, starting with the Civil War and continuing through the conflicts in the Middle East. Each of those individuals has answered the call of duty, often in the face of danger, and when they return home they deserve our gratitude as well as access to programs, benefits and services that can help them be successful civilians. The WDVA Claims Assistance Office can help.

So this year, on Independence Day, before you enjoy that bratwurst or before you take in that baseball game, take a moment to remember all those who have served and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to stand up for the people of this country.

And spread the word about the WDVA Claims Assistance Office. If there is a veteran out there who needs support, we will do all we can to help. To reach a WDVA claims assistance team member call (414) 902-5757. For more information visit WisVets.com.